

Claims

1. A dispensing system comprising:

a dispensing apparatus, a positioning system for controlling the dispensing apparatus and a general purpose PDA for controlling at least the positioning system.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the dispensing system is a fluid dispensing system and the dispensing apparatus is a fluid dispensing apparatus.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the PDA communicates with the positioning system via a wired connection.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the PDA communicates with the positioning system via a wireless communication means.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the wireless communication means includes at least one bluetooth-compatible device.
6. The system of claim 1, the PDA including dispensing system logic for communication with the positioning system.
7. The system of claim 6, the dispensing system logic for controlling the positioning system including position control logic.
8. The system of claim 6, the dispensing system logic including create program logic and store program logic.
9. The system of claim 1, further including at least one personal computer wherein the PDA has PC import/export logic for communicating with the personal computer.
10. The system of claim 1, the PDA including positioner flash logic for flashing the positioning system.
11. A fluid dispensing system comprising:

at least one fluid dispensing apparatus sized for table top application;

at least one positioning system for directing the dispensing apparatus; and

at least one general purpose PDA for controlling the positioning system, the PDA having dispensing system logic for controlling the positioning system.
12. The system of claim 11 further including a bluetooth-compatible wireless communication system.
13. The system of claim 11, the logic for controlling the positioning system including positioner control logic, create programs logic, store programs logic and recall programs logic.

14. A system for dispensing fluid comprising:
 - a plurality of fluid dispensing apparatuses;
 - at least one positioning system for each of the plurality of fluid dispensing apparatuses;
 - at least one general purpose PDA for controlling at least one of the positioning systems;and
 - a network for facilitating communication between the at least one general purpose PDA and at least one of the positioning systems.
15. The system of claim 14, the network including:
 - a wired network that connects to the positioning systems; and
 - a wired connection between the wired network and the PDA.
16. The system of claim 14, the communication network including:
 - a wired network that connects to the positioning systems; and
 - a wireless network that connects the PDA to the network.
17. The system of claim 16, the wireless network including:
 - a wireless node physically connected to the wired network and capable of wireless communication with the PDA, and wherein the PDA is adapted for wireless communication with the access point.
18. The system of claim 17, wherein the wireless node is a router.
19. The system of claim 14, the network including:
 - a wireless network that connects to the positioning system; and
 - a wireless connection between the wireless network and the PDA.
20. The system of claim 19, the wireless network including:
 - a wireless access point, wherein each positioning system is adapted for wireless communication via the wireless access point, and wherein the PDA is adapted for wireless communication with the access point.

21. The system of claim 14, the network including:
a wireless communication device attached to each of the positioning systems, and a wireless communication device attached to at least one PDA, whereby the PDA wirelessly communicates with each positioning system.
22. A method for controlling a liquid dispensing apparatus having a positioning system comprising the steps of:
connecting a general purpose PDA to the positioning system; and
exchanging information between the general purpose PDA and the positioning system.
23. A method for controlling a plurality of liquid dispensing system comprising the steps of:
wirelessly connecting a general purpose PDA to a network, the network communicating with each of the liquid dispensing systems; and
exchanging information between the PDA and the liquid dispensing systems via the wireless connection.
24. A controller for a robotic fluid dispensing system having at least one dispensing apparatus coupled to at least one positioning system, the controller comprising:
a general purpose PDA for controlling the fluid dispensing system, the PDA having dispensing system logic.
25. The controller of claim 24, the dispensing system logic including positioner control logic.
26. The controller of claim 24, the dispensing system logic including create program logic, store program logic and recall program logic.
27. In a fluid dispensing system including a fluid dispensing apparatus and a positioning system, the improvement comprising:
a controller for controlling the fluid dispensing system, the controller including a general purpose PDA having dispensing system logic.
28. The system of claim 6, the dispensing system logic for controlling the positioning system including teach logic.